The details of the official Members of the Council are annexed. [*See* Appendix CLX, Annexure No. 53] No decision on nomination of no-official Members has been taken.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have not placed a low value on safety for transport workers.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The amount spent on road safety programme during 1990-91 is Rs. 16.71,648 and for the year 1991-92 (upto 31.8.91) is Rs. 3,42,704.

(f) The steps taken|being taken by the Central Government/State Govts. are at Annexure-II [*See* Appendix CLX, Annexure No. 56]

Length of Tar and Cement Roads on National Highway

1403. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total mileage of Tar and Cement Roads on National Highway in India; and

(b) when was the last time maintenance work executed; if so, the total expenditure thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Out of total length of 33,689 kms of National Highways in the country, 558 kms are missing links and the remaining length is having either bituminous or cement concrete surface.

(b) Maintenance and repairs of National Highways is a continuing process and repairs are undertaken as and when required within the available funds. In the budget estimates for 1991-92, a provision of Rs. 156.78 crores has been made for the maintenance and repairs of National Highways.

Visit of Bangladesh Foreign Minister to India

1404. SHRI RANJIT SINGH:
DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the talks held by Government with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh who visited Delhi during the last month on various outstanding matters between the countries apart from India extending economic cooperation and concessional credit;

(b) whether the issue of repatriation of Chakma refugees living in India and restoration of their property and the amount that was being spent on Chakma Refugees in India was also discussed with the visiting Foreign Minister; and

(c) if so, his reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARLO FALEIRO): (a) During the recent visit of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister to India from 26-29, August, 1991, wide ranging discussions were held on various bilateral issues. It was agreed that it was in the mutual interest of both countries to further strengthen bilateral relations by resolving the outstanding issues and by adopting a positive approach for enhancing economic cooperation in future.

(b) and (c) The question of the return of Chakma refugees living in India to Bangladesh was taken up with the visiting Foreign Minister and Bangladesh urged to create appropriate conditions for their early return. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister pointed out that with the introduction of a genuine democratic system in Bangladesh, Chakma refugees would have adequate mechanisms to seek the redressal of their grievances within their own country. The issue relating to the amount being spent on Chakma refugees in India, however, was not discussed.